

491 cases new roads cut through difficult country. Nearly all roads are extremely rough, and surfaces are rarely repaired.

The following routes are open for motor traffic :

	Miles
Sheikh Othman to Lahej	16
" " " Tor al Bahar	64
" " " Muscimir	61
" " " Dhala	88
Aden .. " Zinjibar	40
Zinjibar " Ja'ar	16
" " Al Husn	16
" " Dirjaj	17
" " Sheikh Abdulla	6
" " Shuqra	30
Shuqra " Am Surra	30
" " Lodar	50
" " Mudia	68
" " Am Quleita	78
" " Ahwar	76
" " Irqa (E. Aden Protectorate)	48

509 A regular air service by Aden Airways was maintained during the summer months between Aden and Mukeiras, and was used for transporting vegetables for the Aden market. Other existing landing grounds, which are used only by the Royal Air Force, are situated at Shuqra, Ahwar, Lodar, Dhala and Beihan.

492 Where no motors can yet penetrate the traffic of the country is carried on camel caravans, which still travel to Aden in large numbers, or in the more mountainous districts small donkeys are employed for both passengers and goods.

Eastern Aden Protectorate

653 The famine of 1948-49 showed the necessity for all-weather roads for motor transport from the coast to the interior. In a grain shortage 491 camel transport is of little use, the camels becoming too weak from lack 499 of fodder to be really dependable.

In 1949 a request for a Colonial Development and Welfare grant of £15,360 for the construction of all-weather roads to the Hadhramaut (Scheme D.1035) was approved and early in 1950 work began on the construction of drains, Irish bridges, culverts, and weeping bridges, on the Al Kaf road to the interior. In addition, the dangerous Maadi Pass on this road was reconstructed, and a large river-bed on the road between Mukalla and Riyan was successfully bridged saving some miles of detour. Attention was also given to the task of reconstructing the west road to Du'an and the Hadramaut to make it passable all the year round.

Later in 1950 approval was given by the Secretary of State for an additional £15,000 for the further improvement of internal com-

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munication in the Eastern Aden Protectorate—Scheme D.1373. Of this project the road between Bir Ali and Balhaf has been completed, work is now proceeding on the Meifa-Bir Ali stretch, and a start was made in December, 1950, with the new Jahi-Rubat (Du'an) road. 653
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Further, a road was constructed in the north linking Shibam and Henin with the tribal centre of Reidat-as-Sei'ar on the edge of the Ruba' al Khali and resurfacing of the Wadi Hadhramaut road between Tarim and Qassam, Shibam and Qatn and Ajlaniya and Qa'udha was carried out to facilitate transport in the main agricultural areas.

Considerable help was given by the former Director of Public Works, Aden and the Executive Engineer, Aden, who visited the Eastern Aden Protectorate and submitted valuable reports, with recommendations as to the repair and maintenance of roads, which are being implemented to the extent that local finances and labour resources permit.

Air Communications have also improved in the past two years. A weekly service by Aden Airways Ltd. was maintained between Aden and Riyan (17 miles from Mukalla) and late in 1950 was extended to Al Qatn. The interior of the Hadhramaut is now within reach of Aden and the protracted delays travellers formerly faced are a thing of the past. 509

Special planes were flown direct from Riyan and Qatn to Hedjaz for the 1950 pilgrimage.

Sea Communications were maintained by occasional visits of coastal steamers based on Aden, and more frequent trips by motor dhows and small powered craft. 505

Chapter 11: Geography and Climate

SITUATION AND AREA

The Aden Protectorate which can be more conveniently described administratively and geographically by dividing it into two areas, the Western and Eastern, has a total superficial area of about 112,000 square miles. It is bounded on the east by the western boundary of the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman, on the north and west by the Ruba' al Khali (or Empty Quarter) and the kingdom of the Yemen (whose southern boundary was temporarily established by Article III of the Treaty of Sana'a of 11th February, 1934, by which His Majesty's Government and the Government of the Yemen agreed to maintain the *status quo* as on the date of the signature of the treaty), and on the south by the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean. The Aden Protectorate seaboard starts at Husn Murad (opposite Perim) on the west, and runs for 740 miles eastwards to Ras Dhurbat Ali, where it meets the frontier of the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman. 101
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